

(b) the names of the airports which are bordered by slum colonies; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to relocate such slums?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The location of slums around the airport could be safety hazard in the form of bird activity due to dumping of garbage and other refuse in the open.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Clearance of upgradation proposal of Amritsar Airport by PIB

1727. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 350 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 2000 and state:

(a) whether a revised proposal to upgrade Amritsar Airport to International standards approved by AAI, has since been cleared by Public Investment Board (PIB);

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the amount released so far for modernisation and upgradation of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) A revised proposal to upgrade Amritsar airport to international standards at an estimated cost of Rs. 79.27 crores has been prepared keeping in view the direction of Public Investment Board (PIB) and the same is in the process of being submitted before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Reconsideration of decision to Disinvest AI

1728. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to fly passengers to and from India is potentially profitable as is evident from the interest shown by the Virgin Airlines; and

(b) the action proposed to reconsider the decision of the Government to privatise Air India in view of massive interest from all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The profitability of air services operations to/from India vary from route to route depending on traffic potential, level of competition etc.

(b) There is no proposal to reconsider the decision on disinvestment of Air India.

Air Worthiness Certificate issued by DGCA

1729. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to get the Air Worthiness Certificate issued by another independent agency in place of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how reliable is the air worthiness certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Aircraft Rules, Civil Aviation Requirements and other instructions issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA) on safety of operation and airworthiness of aircraft conform to international standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), and the airworthiness certificates issued by Dte. GCA are fully reliable. It may be mentioned that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of USA, which conducted Aviation Safety Assessment of the Dte. GCA in August, 1997 to evaluate its compliance with aviation safety standards, declared the assessment of Dte. GCA as a Category I which is the Highest rating.

ICAO Safety Oversight Audit Team also conducted Audit of Dte. GCA during October, 1999 and commented that the system established by the Dte. GCA for the certification and surveillance of the aircraft operation is satisfactory and enabled the State to fully comply with its obligations.